

# Calendar No. 877

68TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 803

## TRANSFER OF ELM TREE BEACON LIGHTHOUSE STATION

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DECEMBER 10 (calendar day, DECEMBER 12), 1924.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. WADSWORTH, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany S. 3571]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 3571) authorizing the transfer of real property no longer required for lighthouse purposes, having considered the same, report thereon favorably with the recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

This measure is recommended by the War Department and the situation is fully set forth in the following letters from the Acting Secretary of War and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce which are appended hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

JUNE 6, 1924.

Hon. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Jr.,  
*Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,*  
*United States Senate.*

MY DEAR SENATOR WADSWORTH: The Department of Commerce has an abandoned lighthouse service reservation of approximately 1 acre, adjoining Miller Field, Staten Island, N. Y., which the War Department is desirous of obtaining as an addition to such field. The transfer is agreeable to the Department of Commerce, as appears from attached copy of letter from that department of May 3, 1924. Inclosed herewith is a draft of a bill authorizing the transfer. If same meets with your approval, introduction thereof and favorable action by your committee and Congress are requested. The description of the land involved has been supplied by the Department of Commerce.

The purpose of securing this addition to Miller Field is to enable the War Department to improve and enlarge its landing field for airplanes and hydroplanes, particularly for the heavier types of bombing planes, and also to improve the housing conditions at Miller Field by obtaining the use of the cottage now on the Lighthouse Service tract. While Miller Field is at present an inactive flying field it is destined to be an advance base for air defense of New York City, for which reason resumption of Air Service activities there are most desirable. Another reason for acquiring this property is to remove the possibility

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of the installation of an amusement park thereon to the detriment of Miller Field. It is understood that such a park is contemplated if private interests acquire the tract.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT F. DAVIS,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
*Washington.*

The SECRETARY OF WAR,  
*Washington, D. C.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: With further reference to your letter of April 9, 1924, requesting the transfer to the War Department of a portion of the Elm Tree Lighthouse Reservation, Staten Island, N. Y., I am pleased to inform you that the desired transfer will meet with the approval of this department. The property was acquired by purchase, and it will be necessary therefore to secure an act of Congress to authorize the transfer, and I note that the War Department will undertake to secure the necessary legislation. I inclose a copy of blue print No. 6718 on which the tract in question is shown and also a separate sheet giving a description by metes and bounds.

Very truly yours,

J. WALTER DRAKE,  
*Assistant Secretary of Commerce.*

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